

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4830
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 3057

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, PINS, DR
SUBJECT: EMBASSY EXPRESSES CONCERN TO SENIOR PALACE AIDE

1. EMBOFFS MET POLIBIO DIAZ, SECRETARY OF STATE WITHOUT
PORTFOLIO AND A SENIOR ADVISOR AND PERSONAL FRIEND OF
PRESIDENT BALAGUER, JUNE 2 AT HOME OF A MUTUAL FRIEND.

2. DURING COURSE OF DISCUSSION, EMBOFFS EXPRESSED CONCERN
OVER CERTAIN ACTIONS OF GODR WHICH FOLLOWED THE MAY 17
MILITARY INTERVENTION IN VOTE TABULATION, NAMELY: A) THE
BREAKDOWN IN COMMUNICATIONS OF PALACE AND OTHER SENIOR
OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OFFICIAL PARTY WITH
EMBASSY OFFICIALS; B) THE ROUNDABOUT USE OF "MESSENGERS"
TO CARRY GOVERNMENT'S ALLEGATIONS TO WASHINGTON THAT THERE
HAD BEEN FRAUD PERPETRATED ON BEHALF OF THE PRD THROUGH
MANIPULATION OF THE ELECTORAL REGISTRY; C) THE USE OF PAID
CROWDS (INCLUDING SOME RECRUITED FROM GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED
ENTERPRISE TO STAGE AN UNAUTHORIZED ANTI-US DEMONSTRATION
IN FRONT OF EMBASSY AND THE UNRESPONSIVENESS OF POLICE
TO EMBASSY REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL SECURITY FORCES TO
ENSURE THAT THE DEMONSTRATION WOULD NOT GET OUT OF HAND;
AND D) REPORTED HOSTILE REMARKS OF REFORMISTA MILITANTS
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AGAINST SPECIFIC EMBASSY OFFICERS CONSIDERED SYMPATHETIC
TO THE PRD.

3. DIAZ ADMITTED THAT A BREAKDOWN IN COMMUNICATIONS HAD
OCCURRED IN DAYS FOLLOWING MAY 17. HE SAID THE DEMON-
STRATION WAS NOT OFFICIALLY SPONSORED BY SENIOR MEMBERS
OF GOVERNMENT OR OFFICIAL PARTY AND HE CLAIMED HE WAS

UNAWARE THAT MESSENGERS HAD CARRIED GODR COMPLAINTS TO WASHINGTON OR THAT THERE HAD BEEN MENACING STATEMENTS AGAINST EMBASSY PERSONNEL. HE URGED USG TO FORGET EVENTS OF THE RECENT PAST; RELATIONS BETWEEN USG AND GODR HAD ALWAYS BEEN CLOSE AND THESE RELATIONS WILL BE RESTORED.

4. HOWEVER, TURNING TO SUBJECT OF VENEZUELA, DIAZ CHARGED THE VENEZUELAN WITH BEING THE "NEW IMPERIALISTS" IN THE CARIBBEAN AREA. HE SAID THIS WAS BASED ON VENEZUELAN ECONOMIC MIGHT. CULTURALLY THE VENEZUELAN WERE INFERIOR TO THE DOMINICANS. HE BLAMED INDIVIDUALS CLOSE TO THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT FOR HAVING PARTICIPATED IN ELDCTORAL FRAUD. TWO PERSONS WHO HE NAMED WERE FELIPE ALVAREZ, WHO EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS IS A FUNCTIONARY OF AD PARTY WHO MAINTAINS PARTY'S SEEXTERNAL RELATIONS, AND A MEMBER OF CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES NAMED CASTRO.

5. COMMENT: POLIBIO DIAZ IS ONE OF THE OLD TRUJILLOISTS IN THE GOVERNMENT AND REPORTEDLY ONE OF THOSE LEAST PREPARED TO HAND OVER POWER AUGUST 16 TO THE PRD. A CRAFTY LAWYER WHO STAYS OUT OF THE PUBLIC EYE AND RARELY SHOWS HIS HAND, HE NEVERTHELESS IS SAID TO BE EXTREMELY INFLUENTIAL WITH BALAGUER. WE WERE TOLD THAT HE REPORTED THIS CONVERSATION TO THE PRESIDENT. IF SO, WE CONSIDER IT TO HAVE BEEN GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO GET SOME OF OUR CONCERNS ACROSS AT A HIGH LEVEL. THIS IS NOT FIRST TIME THAT
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EMBASSY HAS HEARD THE ANTI-VENEZUELAN LINE FROM SOURCES IN OR CLOSE TO PALACE. BALAGUER, HIS FAMILY AND MEMBERS OF INNER CIRCLE ARE SAID TO BE FURIOUS WITH PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, WHETHER OR NOT THEY FEEL THIS WAY, THE ANTI-VENEZUELAN LINE IS PARTICULARLY CONVENIENT SINCE IT REINFORCES THEIR ARGUMENTS OF VENEZUELAN COMPLICITY IN ALLEGED ELECTORAL FRAUD SCHEMES.
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